



Thank you to the Co-Chairs, Rep. Tercyak and Sen. Osten. I'm Daniel Ravizza, an organizer with Connecticut Citizen Action Group. It's a pleasure and a privilege to represent our over 20,000 members in the state on SB 387, An Act Concerning The Inclusion of Labor History In the Public School Curriculum and HB 5756, An Act Requiring the Standard Wage to Be Paid to Certain Employees of Employers Who Received Financial Assistance from State Economic Development Entities.

Regarding SB 387, I'm former education major at Western Connecticut State University and a graduate of the National Labor College with a degree in Labor Studies. It's our view that the concepts presented within the bill provide practical, cultural and educational benefits to Connecticut's students. Ensuring that our students are informed of their rights as workers through the teaching of existing labor law is long overdue. I graduated from high school only five short years ago, yet many of my peers are unaware of their right to the collective bargaining process, freedom from employer discrimination, and basic workplace safety standards. Moreover, our young people deserve to be educated and informed of the contributions of the labor movement that lead to those same rights and protections. Indeed, our students deserve a full and accurate account of American history, a history that cannot be separated from the realities of work, employment, service, and the strides made there within.

If we are to educate on fair labor standards, we must also practice it. HB 5756 sustains that fairness for entities that receive financial assistance from the state. Though job creation may be on the lips of every business owner, worker, citizen, and public official, we must give due diligence that the jobs we are creating are of caliber and quality necessary to receive taxpayer dollars, especially for those workers who are in the building or service industries. Giving that diligence will allow more money to flow into Connecticut's economy, spurring more job growth. Connecticut Citizen Action Group firmly supports this bill.

Thank you.

Submitted by Daniel Ravizza to the Labor and Public Employees Committee on January 31st, 2013